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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are pleased to congratulate Margaret
4 Blackshere, President of the Illinois AFL-CIO, on her
5 retirement in February of 2007; and

6 WHEREAS, Margaret Blackshere began her career as a teacher
7 in Madison; she became involved in the labor movement when the
8 faculty voted to join the Illinois Federation of Teachers; and

9 WHEREAS, Margaret Blackshere served as president of the
10 Local and eventually became the statewide vice president of the
11 Illinois Federation of Teachers; and

12 WHEREAS, In 1993 she was elected secretary-treasurer of the
13 AFL-CIO and served in that capacity until her election as
14 president in 2000; she was the first woman to be elected
15 president of the AFL-CIO; and

16 WHEREAS, Margaret Blackshere has worked toward raising the
17 minimum wage, protecting day laborers, reforming the workers
18 compensation system, and making sure that women in Illinois
19 receive equal pay for equal work; and

20 WHEREAS, Margaret Blackshere will be missed by her peers,

1 but will continue to speak on behalf of workers across the
2 State; therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
5 congratulate Margaret Blackshere on her retirement as
6 President of the Illinois AFL-CIO; and we wish her good luck
7 and good health in her future endeavors; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
9 presented to Margaret Blackshere as a symbol of our esteem.